

NSC BRIEFING

21 July 1960

Congo

- I. The UN Security Council remained in session until early this morning but reached no decision on measures to be taken in the Congo. Another meeting is scheduled today.
- A. A representative of the Congo toned down Lumumba's threat to ask for Soviet troops.
1. He said the Congo still has confidence the UN will find a solution to the Congo's dispute with Belgium, and hopes the request for Soviet troops will not be necessary.
- B. Soviet delegate Kuznetsov, however, demanded the withdrawal of Belgian troops from the Congo within three days and threatened action by the bloc in the absence of more effective UN measures.
1. The Soviet Union also repeated its demand for withdrawal of US military personnel and all troops of alleged aggressor nations.
- C. The press has reported that Lumumba will leave for New York today or tomorrow to address the Security Council.
- II. Continuing evidence of Lumumba's instability and inability to control his government may prompt Belgium and other nations to recognize independence of Katanga on grounds that it must be kept out of Lumumba's, and Communist, hands.
- A. According to [redacted] Lumumba is "crazy" and various Belgians have characterized him as paranoid. Ambassador Timberlake observes that at minimum he is temporarily irrational.

State Department review completed

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B. Although unable to control the Force Publique, Lumumba has attempted to bolster his own position by associating himself with anti-Belgian sentiment fostered by the revolt.

III. In Leopoldville area, arrival of UN troops--now totaling over 3,000--has significantly lowered tension.

A. In interior, however, particularly Kivu and Orientale provinces, disorders continue.

B. Unemployment a potential security threat in Leopoldville and other urban centers. In Leopoldville alone, there are estimated 75,000 unemployed.

IV. Despite recurring rumors of Soviet complicity in Force Publique revolt, solid evidence is lacking.

A. Initially, revolt was an attempt to force promotions and higher pay.

B. On the other hand, fact that mutiny broke out simultaneously in disparate areas suggests central direction.

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